LIBRARY

Ecclesia Plantanda

PACIFIC LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
LIBRARY

The Board of American Missions is chartered
the United States as a Pennsylvania corporation, as
Dominion corporation in Canada and in its capaci
as the Board of West Indies Missions holds a chart
from the State of New York, which gives it all t
rights of a membership corporation.

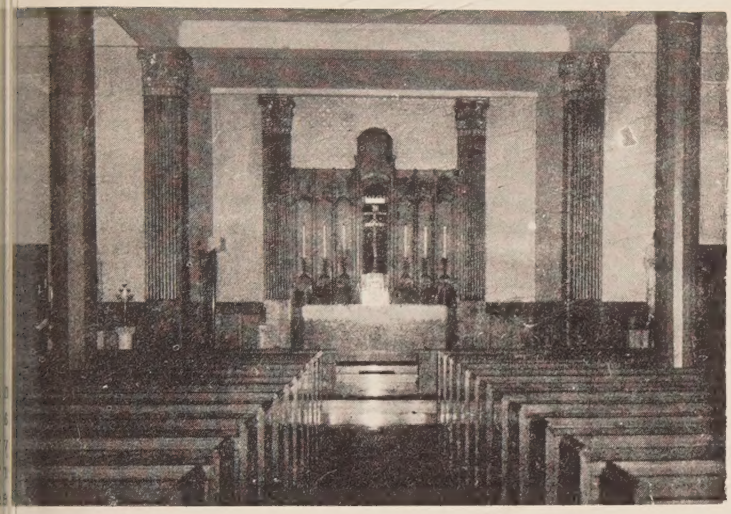
231 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

ECCLESIA PLANTANDA

Vol. X V I. JANUARY, 1951. No.

Ecclesia Plantanda is published monthly, except July a
August, by the Board of American Missions of the United Lu
eran Church in America. Publication office: #1 Nancy Bou
vard, Merrick, Nassau County, New York. Subscription pri
35¢ per annum.

Entered as second class matter October 25, 1937 at the p
office at Merrick, N. Y., under act of Congress March 3, 187



The Home Mission Enterprise

At a mission dinner some twenty-five years ago a lady ting next to the Treasurer of the new Board of American ssions asked him how the church could grow without do- home mission work. Somewhat surprised he asked where e got the idea that the church was doing something that ounted to committing suicide. She replied that the Home ssion Board had been abolished for this new Board of Ameri- Missions. Patiently it was explained that the name was pted because the reorganization of the mission work in erica taking over as it did the work of five Boards needed more inclusive title. Even when the good lady was told t the charter of the old Home Mission Board had been en over by the new Board she did not seem fully con- ced that Home Mission work would not end but would be atly enlarged as the Treasurer had assured her.

Often since the conversation we have found other mis- derstandings among the people of the ULCA that seemed indicate a weakness somewhere in the publicity and the lit- ature of the general Boards. To those of us who knew how nestly the various Boards were going about their assigned ks it was easily understood how they overlooked telling people what the church had instructed them to do.

A number of years ago the authorities of the ULCA took this matter and published a number of books called the y Series which attempted to explain the organization of ULCA and the duties of its various Boards and agencies.

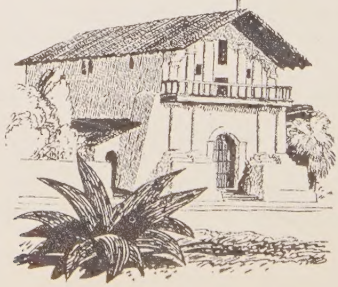
This was a good start but what was overlooked was that o
the generation then at work received this information.
church does not teach "The Catechism" one year and t
lay it aside as if no further teaching were necessary, but y
after year the catechism is taught to a new class of catec
mens.

While the leadership of the church does not change
rapidly as the membership of a congregation, nevertheless
is necessary that an understanding of the responsibilities
the Boards of the Church should be given each succeed
generation of leaders. At this time we will touch briefly u
one point only, and give a partial answer to the quest
why we have general Boards. Everyone can see the nee
a Foreign Mission Board, but there are many who can
understand why the Synods or even the Conferences and c
gregations could not do the work that is being done by s
of the general Boards.

There are those still living who can remember the t
when there were no general Boards to administer the w
of home missions. The establishment of the apportionm
system took many years and those who had part in miss
work fifty years ago recall the inadequate support given
general Boards in the beginning and the difficulty of secur
capable men for the mission field.

The first value of the central Board as established in
ULCA is seen in the allocation of mission funds to the s
tegic fields that are developing in various parts of N
America. If the funds for home missions today were u
synodically as in former years the great field in Califor
which developed in the last fifteen years would have pas
into the hands of the sectarians. Many people thought t
the talk about the growth of population on the coast was chi
California real estate promotion, but when the 1950 cen
revealed that only New York had more people than Califor
all were compelled to acknowledge that something was h
pening to America.

Therefore, the first advantage of having a general Bo
of home missions is the strategic direction of men and mo
into the sections where the greatest possibilities exist for
strengthening of the church.



AMERICAN MISSIONS

Michigan. There are different ideas of what constitutes
vs and this accounts for the omission of many items of
urch activities in the daily newspapers. One of the elements
t creates news items is that it is something unusual. From
quarterly reports sent in by the missionaries, many news
ns can be found but it would not be proper to publish every-
ng just because it is something unusual. The items from
manuel Mission in Jackson, as reported by Missionary E.
Bunck are not unusual in themselves but they are some-
ng unusual when one recalls the history of the field in
kson and the years when the future seemed hopeless.

The missionary reported many items of interest in his
arterly statement and after telling of a recent memorial
t of brass vases for the altar and large brass offering plates
adds the touch that made the item unusual when he writes,

"The offering plates were really needed because the offeri had outgrown the size of the old plates." Given the sa excuse there is no shadow of doubt whatever that any r sion will find some way to secure larger plates.

The mission at Jackson has had many tourists stop take pictures of the new church and its attractive lawn shrubs. During one quarter there were three Building C mittees that visited the church and examined every detai construction. Pastor Bunck reports that their two weeks cation Bible School had 111 pupils with 12 adults on its st All current and benevolence accounts are paid in full a balance in the treasury. This is a great contrast to the d some years ago when things were so discouraging that other Lutheran body would not take the field as a gift.

—— † ——

Pennsylvania. At the annual convention of the P burgh Synod the realignment of parishes that was appro left the McKean Mission Charge with only two congregati Trinity at McKean's and St. Paul's at Drakes Mills. extra free time resulting from having one less congrega to serve will enable Pastor Russell Riethmiller to develop two congregations which have made such a remarkable ord under his pastoral oversight.

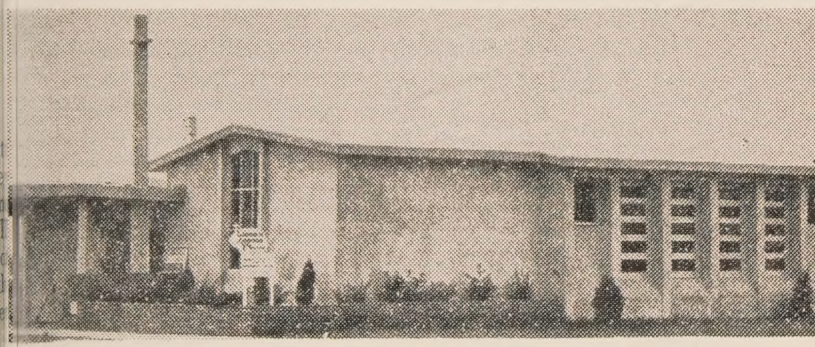
The Baccalaureate sermon for the McKean High Sc was preached by Pastor Riethmiller this year. The ser was held in Trinity Church. The Baccalaureate sermon the Mill Creek High School was also preached by the pa The Vacation School at Trinity had 68 enrolled and St. Pa had an enrollment of 40. Both totals include teachers workers.

—— † ——

Washington. The reports from Faith Mission, Eve indicate the continuation of the gains that started when congregation occupied its new bui' ling. Pastor Neve w that some things are not so encouraging. Home buildin still going on at a great rate, but the increased costs h raised the monthly payments so that even with big wages people are hard pressed and the church finances are be ning to show the pinch of the increasing payments which people must make on their homes. Another hindrance the pastor has experienced is the scarcity of trained lea in the church and Sunday School.

—— † ——

California. Early in September a very happy group gathd at Lakewood to dedicate the church which after four ars Rev. Louis F. Mertz was able to bring into existence. the people it seemed a long time to wait but under conons that have prevailed in this country the congregation s been greatly favored in securing a church home of its n in so short a period. The accomplishment would not have n possible if the Synod had not possessed in its clerical mbership an expert architect and construction man in the son of the Rev. Edward Spirer whose ability as well as his lingness to take time from his parish duties for building rations in the California Synod, has meant so much in the ancement of the church on the coast.



CHAPEL AND PARISH HALL

Members and friends of the congregation donated many urs of labor which kept the costs of the structure at a most sonable figure. The building will seat 175 and when the urch and parsonage are built the present building will be a t of a complete modern church plant. Dr. Beasom, the sident of the Synod, was the chief speaker at the dedication wices. The organ used for the first time at the dedication s the gift of Holy Trinity Church. The picture which was d by the Long Beach newspapers does not give a very satctory impression of this excellent solution to the problem fronting missions in securing their first meeting place.

———— † ————

Wyoming. From Grace Church in Caspar comes the vs that the attendance during the summer was so good that re was no deficit in the treasury and the improved situan will make it possible to put the parish on a firm financial ndation. Pastor Eastlack reports that their evangelistic camgn resulted in securing five members for an adult conmation class, five others were received by letters of trans- and one by adult baptism.

New York. The New York Synod exercised its rig
call a man for mission work in that Synod and the choic
a very fine Board Missionary who had been sent to Calif
in an emergency. Pastor Howard A. Lenhardt did exc
work in building up the mission and securing a church
perty. He was formerly working as a Board Missiona
the New England states where his ability to meet un
situations prompted the Board to send him to California.
New York Synod placed him in the Brighton-Lincoln
Area of Buffalo. The letter to the interested people fou
the canvass concerning the first service to be held was e
tionally good and the first paragraphs are quoted tha
readers may know something of the missionary's approa
a new field.

"Dear friends: Someone put it wisely when he sa
is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.'
that thought in mind we are endeavoring to establish in
Brighton-Lincoln Park Area, a new unit of the Holy C
tian Church. It is in and through this Holy Christian Ch
that God spreads the light of His Word throughout the w
Our Lord Jesus Christ claimed for Himself the title 'The
of the World' when he said, 'I am the Light of the worl
that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall
the light of life.'

"The results of our initial canvass in this comm
are most interesting. Many of you are without a ch
home in this area and are anxiously looking forward t
first Service and the final establishment of a Lutheran Ch
in your community. Many of you have recently mov
this community from distant areas and have expressed a
sire for a Lutheran Church here. Others have been resi
here for some time now, but somehow because of dist
and lack of transportation, have found themselves beco
less and less frequent in their church attendance."

The letter goes on to tell of the first service and the
where it will be held. There are several other items but
is especially emphasized and that is how to reach the
sionary if anyone is in need of pastoral services.

———— † ————

The Church of Jesus Christ is waiting, not nervous
sceptically, but in confidence and assurance. Its redem
is near. God's Word of prophecy and promise has
failed. What the Lord of the Church Himself has for
shall surely come to pass. He will come to judge the
and the dead, and gather His church to Himself in glo

Wisconsin. Although the Trinity Mission at Fort Atkinson was grateful for the use which they had of the Odd Fellows Hall over the years, there was real rejoicing when they held their last service in the Hall on the first Sunday in November. In the afternoon of the same Sunday at a largely attended service the new church was dedicated. Field Missionary Dwight L. Shellhart, the organizer, spoke on the theme "A Happy Day" and the dedication sermon was preached by the President of the Wisconsin Conference, the Rev. Amos Streich.

The memorial gifts were many and the list of the gifts with the names of the donors filled an entire page of the dedication booklet. One gift was unique as it was given by the "Home Town Folks" in memory of five young men of the parish who had lost their lives in World War II.

The congregation was organized by Field Missionary Shellhart with 118 charter members on the first Sunday in February, 1943. Later in the year the Rev. H. E. Carlson was

Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

called as pastor and under his faithful ministry the congregation has grown so that on the day of dedication there were 408 confirmed members on the roll. The Vacation Bible School for the 1950 season enrolled 232. The picture of the church building which appeared on the dedication booklet did not convey a correct idea of the size of the structure nor the dignity of the interior arrangements.

— † —

Wisconsin. Among other problems confronting the growing mission at Menasha was the question of a parsonage. In many other missions the people themselves took up the matter and raised $12,000 and furnished donations of labor to such an extent that Missionary Franklin C. Heglund and his family are now occupying a fine two story parsonage. The dedication was held on October 22nd and the sermon was preached by Field Missionary D. H. Shellhart, who organized this successful mission.

— † —

"Well — what's she complaining for? Doesn't she know better than to stand at an angle? She deserves to get bumped!" The speaker's neighbor—also standing in the aisle, after a few moments silence said: "Thank you." The other looked down at the little lady and asked: "Why are you thanking me?" "For what you just said." Then, seeing the puzzled look on the girl's face, the older woman went on: "Don't you think we get most of our bumps because we 'stand at an angle'? Not only in street cars, but at home, in the office, among our friends? We know better — but we just don't think, or don't care, we want to do as we please and say what we like — we don't love the other fellow enough to want to make it easier or pleasanter for him, and then we complain when we get bumped."

There was a moment or two of silence, and then the younger said slowly: "Thank you! I guess may be I deserve most of the 'bumps' I get."

South Carolina. Under the leadership of their new pas-
. Rev. E. H. Seckinger, the old three congregation parish
t Pelion is making progress. An addition was built at Beth-
r . that modern facilities might be provided for the Sunday
c ool. There was a large amount of donated labor. Material
l was donated so that the addition was built without incur-
i any debts. Holy Trinity is also planning to remodel
1 church building in order to provide better Sunday School
ms. St. John's is installing electricity.

—— † ——

Washington. Not all missions are benefitted by the activi-
that result from war preparations. Pastor J. L. Baglain
es that while the revival of the congregation at Chehalis
not stopped it has very definitely been slowed by having
of their active men called for military service. In addi-
, one of the members of the church council with his fam-
have been transferred to Idaho. The wife was a member
the choir and its pianist. She was also a teacher in the
day School. The family will be missed. In order to give
pastor more space in his home the congregation voted to
lose the back porch which would provide a utility room
l laundry. The labor was all donated.

—— † ——

NEW MISSION CHURCH

Seventy-four worshippers attended the first service of the new mission in the northwest section of Spokane, where Rev. David C. Getzendaner has been working as missionary for the Pacific Synod and the Board of American Missions. Average attendance in this new church, which is using the name **Messiah Lutheran Church,** has been 50 for the month of October. Meeting in the Field School building, and supported by a capable and energetic group of people. the prospects for the new congregations appear bright. The Sunday School, which was begun on October 15, has averaged over 30 in attendance each Sunday.

Indiana. The mission in Fort Wayne under the pa
of Rev. G. L. Jacobson is making renewed progress.
Mission was established through the interest of Holy T
Church and its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Krauss. Th
tinued interest and assistance of this generous congre
and its pastor has meant much to the mission, especially
it was hampered by wartime restrictions on building.

Pastor Jacobson was in the Lutheran Hospital late i
for an operation of a serious nature. Soon after his
to work in September the Building Fund campaign was
pleted and Ground Breaking services for the new church
held as soon as the contract could be awarded. After th
gregation has its own building its growth will be greate
it has been in the past.

—— † ——

Chicago. St. James' Mission for colored people ho
confirmation service on the Sunday nearest St. James'
On July 23, 1950 thirteen were confirmed. The Baccala
Service for the nurses of the Provident Hospital and Tr
School was held this year in St. James' Church. It will
interest to our readers to know that the brother of Rev
bin W. Skyles, missionary at St. James,' was elected thi
for his fourth term in the House of Representatives
Illinois State Legislature.

—— † ——

Virginia. During the third quarter the Glade Creek
parish received three adults by baptism, one of whom v
years old. The others were a young couple whom Pas
L. Richardson had married.

—— † ——

Hawaii. In an informing letter sent to friends c
mainland, Pastor Everett Jensen in his graphic manne
of events in his work in Hawaii and of personal and f
matters. Some of the paragraphs are quoted here: "F
all we have moved! We live right on the beach in K
Next door to the two and a half acres on which we live
is a man who pays $2,000 a year rent for his leased
Now, hold on a minute. The Jensens did not hit pay
not on the salary of a Missionary. The Bishop Estate
provides the resources for the "Kamehameha School"
Hawaiians) owns about 10% of all the land in Hawaii
cently their chaplain transferred to Hilo and we caut
asked Col. Kent, President of the school, if we might re
house. He plugged for us and we got it provided we do

he work. The young people and the men of the church t hed right in and made our three bedroom stone cottage o like a place out of a fairy tale. The children have been ng a wonderful time at the beach and on the spacious v ns surrounding the house."

"St. Paul's is growing, so much that it takes all one's r gth to keep it heading in the right direction. We have y school, kindergarten and first three grades with 33 i ren. It hardly seems possible but there it is. We have n property and hope to build some time next year, the c r the better, since at the present we are carrying on our p from four different locations. All our Lutheran work r nues to expand. Lihue has its own pastor. Pearl Har- r keeps Pastor Hintz busy and the Honolulu Church is o ng, building, and holding a campaign to raise $50,000. r or Hamme is run ragged. When the hand of God moves, metimes moves fast and it seems as though that is what n ened in Hawaii. Pray for the work; we need your spir- n understanding so much to keep us going."

osed New St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS

To be erected at Pahoa and Thirteenth Avenues

HONOLULU, HAWAII

California. It would seem that St. Paul's Mission at lejo is determined to maintain the reputation of their St the place where the unusual is commonplace. Pastor Gl Balsley did not have his usual page of comments on his quarterly report, but the one line statement was more sta than a full page report, for it said "Congregation voted support as to pastor's salary effective January 1, 1951. the congregation had only been organized seven years and was still receiving $840 on salary from the Board report certainly contained "news."

Turning to the office records it was clear that since tor Balsley had undertaken the pastorate of this field h practically doubled the confirmed membership, so that a time the vote was taken to become self-supporting there 321 confirmed members on the roll at St. Paul's. The co gation still has an indebtedness of $34,500 on which it is ing monthly as much as many missions of similar age tribute to the pastor's salary. At the same time the be lence program is not overlooked since $500 were received ing the quarter and forwarded to the Synodical Treasure

—— † ——

New York. The expected increase in the membe of the Schenectady Mission as soon as they were able t their new church building, was realized according to th ures presented by the pastor, Dr. J. R. Fink, in his quar report. The benevolence quota assigned the congregatio 1950 was raised in full by November 1st. This congreg followed the example of many other missions when the of the church donated the labor necessary to insulate church. The ladies furnished a fine dinner for the labo

—— † ——

Manitoba. Mission congregations using two lang under present immigration laws show little growth, but are necessary for the preservation of the faith among the generations which find it difficult to master a new lang The bi-lingual congregation of St. John's of Winnipeg is ing the problem more perplexing each year. One thing evident and that was without a parsonage they could n tain a pastor. The congregation proceeded, therefore, to a home for the missionary with practically all the labo nated by the members of the mission.

—— † ——

World War. Whether it will be known as World War I or the continuation of World War II will make no difference in the evil consequences that have followed armed conflicts since the beginning of time. Some may think that only the church in the battle scarred nations across the ocean felt the evil consequences of war, but the church in this country has also suffered and will continue to be hampered by the loss of manpower and the lower value of the dollar. In the fact, the church has suffered more from these two sources than any other walk in life.

In the new hostilities the loss of the church will be greater, for the government will not only draft the strongest men but it will take men who were never taken before and as a result the young men, including even the younger married men, will be taken into the armed forces and the church will be seriously handicapped.

Pastors are being called back into the chaplaincy. It was a matter of justifiable satisfaction when our Lutheran chaplains established such an excellent record in the last war. Uncle Sam has a long memory or probably the matter can be described more accurately by saying that he has very complete records in his files and so this time the government will not wait for the graduates from the Seminary, but already has begun calling up reserve chaplains of tested ability.

The result is that here and there mission churches are suddenly finding themselves without a pastor. Other missionaries subject to call are hampered in making long time plans for the work in the parish, not knowing when they may be placed in service. One former missionary was with the troops on the front line in Korea.

There are several men now in the ministry who were in service before they had entered the Seminary and are, therefore, more likely to be called back before all the chaplains have been recalled. In this number is Missionary Wrigley of Gethsemane, Milwaukee. He has been able to secure some delay by applying for a transfer from the Signal Corps to the Chaplaincy. Most of the pastors who were in service before ordination like Pastor Wrigley, had responsible positions as officers in the service and having an excellent record the government men are anxious for their return. While the situation here in the States has been a burden for the mission congregations, that will be nothing in comparison with an acute shortage of pastors that will result from the increase in the number in armed forces.

———— † ————

It is surprising how much can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.

———— † ————

Hungarian. When the doors of the United States w wide open to immigration, people by the hundreds of thousa annually flocked to the country which when compared to conditions in the old world was "a land flowing with milk a honey." These people usually settled in communities a their relatives and friends as they arrived in later years ad to the growth of the neighborhood where the customs and l guage of their homeland were continued. There were ma sections of our large cities where English was a foreign l guage.

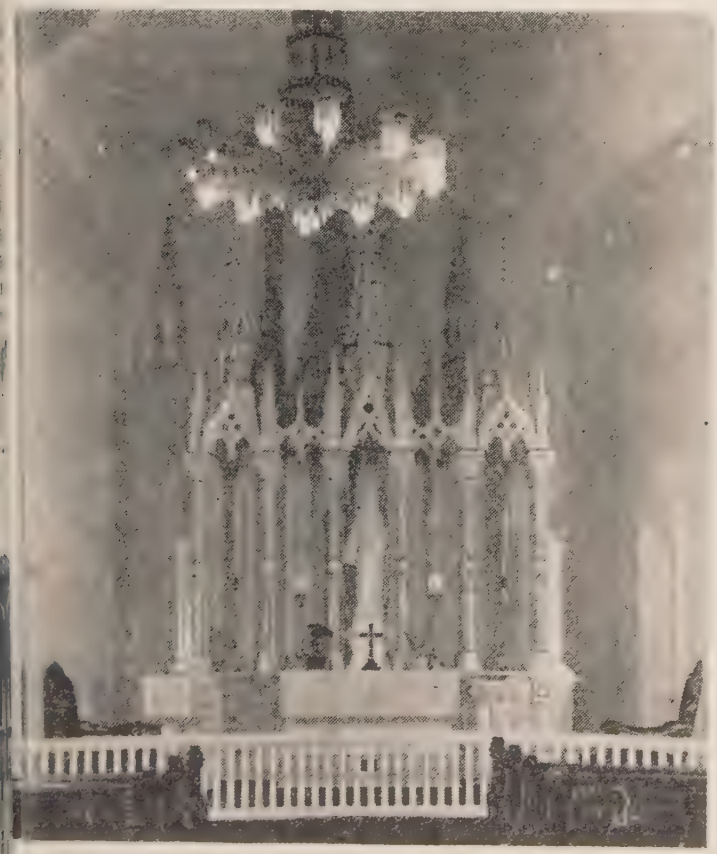
Under such circumstances pastors from the fatherla could serve missions in their own language without hav any knowledge of the English language or of American c toms. But as the children grew up they learned English the schools and later on used it in business life. The res was that the next generation neither used their forefathe language nor attended the parochial schools where their la guage could have been acquired.

This transition brought about a critical period for our l guistic groups and many thousands were lost to the chur Even where the support of the Mission Board was availal the difficulties could not be fully overcome because as the ne for a bi-lingual ministry increased the doors were being clos to immigration. Young men from among these people we being educated by the church Boards but in many cases th

Hungarian Lutheran Church

lity was such that they were called to successful congrega-
ons with no linguistic services.

From time to time appeals were made to these young
e who had a command of two languages to help save the
regations that had been organized among their people.
ong those answering the appeal for such service was the
e Paul Markovits, who had been doing good work in all
n ish congregations. He went to the Hazelwood Hungarian
eran Church in Pittsburgh where he has been working
fully and at great sacrifice. It is a good thing that Pastor
kovits was located in this area, for from this central point
ad been able to do much for many DP's who have escaped
merica since the close of World War II.



The love of these people for their church is shown by the
tiful Altar of the Hazelwood Hungarian Church. This
ure as well as the one of their church property appeared
the booklet which the congregation issued at the time of
twenty-fifth anniversary in 1950.

Kentucky. It is surprising how many "firsts" ou sions are able to produce all over America. At Lex Faith Mission broadcast its morning service over WKLX, the first time that a local Lutheran service ha been broadcast over this station. Pastor E. J. Detm organized a Lutheran Student Association at the Uni of Kentucky which is located in Lexington. A special followed by a social hour is held for the students each S evening.

— † —

Wisconsin. At the time this issue is mailed th building at Lancaster will already have been occupie rejoicing congregation. Pastor J. H. Gerberding is very over the encouraging developments in the three congre of his parish. This missionary pastor preaches three every Sunday, each time to a different congregation.

— † —

The Simple Approach

NEWSPAPERMEN TELL of a scoop which a cu reporter scored on the veterans of half a doze New York dailies a couple of years ago. I seems that all of the metropolitan papers wer angling for a picture of the daughter of very prominent and news-worthy person.

All the veterans of the dailies tried in various involve and devious ways to obtain the young woman's picture The butler was bribed and the housemaid was bribed commercial photographers, who might have made a por trait at some time in the past, were all interviewed. Dis tant relatives were besieged by phone and in person, o the chance that they might have a picture. Still, no on turned up with the much-desired photograph.

"Why doesn't someone just ask Miss Jones for the pic ture?" asked the new reporter, not knowing any better.

A couple of veterans, who did know all the answers kidded the new one. "That's a splendid idea," the joshed—"why don't *you* call on Miss Jones personally an get the picture yourself?"

The young reporter returned an hour or so later wit the picture under his arm. But he was a very much sur prised young man when the city editor, a man of evil man ner and with the bleak disposition bred by chronic dyspepsia fell on his neck with loud and unprintable hallelujahs The neophyte was considerably bewildered. He didn know that the simple approach wouldn't work.

New York. The question has been raised about the use of the large houses which missions have used while developing the field to the point where a church building can be erected. In almost all instances the first floor was remodelled into a church auditorium and the pastor and family occupied the other floors. Many solutions have been found for this situation. Most frequently the building is sold for more than cost, which would not be possible in normal times, neither would the congregation have found itself with a house on its hands if times were normal, for then the church woud have been built at once.

Other missions have found a solution like the Mt. Kisco Missions where Pastor Harris L. Willis reports that by the donation of labor by the members and the expenditure of $850 the first floor used as a church was converted into an apartment which is renting for $75 per month. In New York State the exemption for parsonages is on a definite amount and so the rental of this apartment will not add to the taxes, since the congregation would have to pay taxes on anything above the value allowed by law. Pastor Willis also tells of an unusual memorial presented by one of the members of the church. It is an Altar Crucifix carved by one of the outstanding artists of Oberammergau. Since its presentation the pastor says that artists from the Metropolitan area have visited the church to view the crucifix.

—— † ——

Calvary Lutheran Organizes At Azusa

The Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church of Azusa, California, is rapidly coming to the place of organization, under the missionary leadership of the Rev. Howard A. Anspach, D.D. The congregation is worshipping in a transformed store building.

Minnesota. Missions sometimes find it advisa change the name which was adopted at the time o organization. This happened to the Good Shepherd Chu St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, which at a recent congreg meeting voted to change its name to "Prince of Peace. of the other churches in this area using the name Shepherd" was a Roman Church. It had always been for granted that there would be no confusion if a Lu Church had the same name as its Roman Catholic nei but this no longer seems to be correct.

Another obstacle confronted this mission on Nov 1st when the rental on the room in the Public Scho raised from $7.50 to $25 for each Sunday morning s However, the remodeling of the house on their recentl chased property will enable the congregation to occu own building before the increased rental becomes a bu

— † —

Which pronoun do you use? To look over the bulletins and pastoral letters prepared by our missio sometimes furnishes a number of surprises. There are who claim that they can tell a person's character by his writing but that seems very doubtful. It is certain, ho that a good understanding of a person can be obtained his letters and writings.

This came to our attention as we were reading ov sample letters which our missionaries sent out to their p ioners about the congregational budget for the coming There was one set of such letters which we read twice in to discover what commended them so highly. They were sensible statements of what was necessary for the miss raise to meet its obligations, but then that could be s most of the letters which had been sent out by the missio Hence the second reading of the one set of letters to di what it was that left such a good impression.

It was found in almost the last sentence of the le the point where the pastor or the finance committee u tells the people what *they* must do. This pastor writes we do this in 1951? It all depends upon each one of (and how easy it would have been to say "you"). The used in the letter was "us." Only a little word but it r an understanding of leadership. Who was the missionar wrote the letter? Does it matter? But that no one may this item is fiction, the letters were written by Missi George E. Dressler of St. Mark's Mission, Waukesha, W

Washington. A number of reports have been given in these pages of the grand work being done by Redeemer Mission at Fircrest for the DP's who have settled in this area. Almost every issue of the weekly parish bulletin carries evidence of the unusual work of Pastor Olin G. Dasher. He made calls upon the members and friends of the church to help furnish rooms for these DP's whose entire earthly possessions at the time of their arrival were packed in a couple suitcases. As employment must be guaranteed for these people before they leave the internment camps in Germany, the problem of living quarters and furniture becomes the outstanding problem in overcrowded America.

In the recent accessions to the church at Fircrest were the newly arrived relatives of a DP already in the mission. These matters are mentioned not only to give credit to the generous pastor and people for their willingness to help those who are in such great need, but also to give our readers an idea of the tremendous difficulties confronting our missionaries. In a well established community the building of a church or Sunday School structure is a trying ordeal but it becomes a much greater problem in a young mission. The situation is not solved either when many of the members are people who were only recently rescued from the camps of the refugees in Europe. It must be said of them, however, that these people make larger gifts to the church in proportion to their income than do most of the prosperous members of American background. In fact, the giving of these persecuted people from the old world can only be compared to the giving of the widow of the Scriptures.

However, in the face of all the difficulties Pastor Dasher and his people are making plans to erect a church building. Judging from the past the effort will be crowned with success.

†

A Smile

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich nor mighty that he can get along without it. And none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

Wisconsin. After using the City Auditorium for the services a congregation appreciates beyond measure the privilege of having its own place of worship. One thing that Pastor G. Wm. Genszler especially valued in having exclusive use of a building was the opportunity afforded for the holding of a Vacation Bible School. Everyone warned against attempting to inaugurate such a school because all the other churches had tried it in the past and given it up in disgust. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that a vacation school would not be a success in a summer resort town.

In the face of this well-meant advice the mission went on with its plans and Pastor Genszler reports that the school at Wisconsin Dells was the best he had ever attended. The children were so happy over the school that all agreed with one little fellow who wanted it "to go on forever." The pastor writes "our attendance floored us. We hit the unbelievable total of 102 enrolled with an average attendance of 9[illegible]. We had children of Roman Catholics, Missourian Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians. From these outsiders we gained seventeen new pupils for the Sunday School and fifteen of their parents for the church. As a result of the school I had eleven adults who received instruction and united with the church on Thanksgiving Day. Four of the eleven had never been baptized and six had never been confirmed.

"All this took place in a tourist town where everyone said it could not be done because everyone is so busy with the tourists that even the kids have jobs. We will not have to worry about teachers next year, for ten of the eleven that taught this year have asked to teach again next year. As for the children, well, I know of a large number that have already arranged to bring their friends who were not in this year's school."

—— † ——

Will Rogers, the "human philosopher," practiced his preachments, and soon found that contentment and happiness were to be attained by doing each day's tasks with confidence, and laying them down at night without worry. Once a discouraged friend said to him, "Will, if you had but forty-eight hours to live, how would you spend them?" And the indomitable cowpuncher replied, "One at a time" » »

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in a business, and is the countersign of friends. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no earthly good to anybody till it is given away » »

One of the easiest ways to become popular is to remember the nice things people say about a person, and then repeat them to him.

Pennsylvania. The splendid growth of Calvary Lutheran Church at West Chester under the pastoral guidance of the Rev. William H. Ralston was marked by the renovation of the church property which required the greater part of the sum. The interior of the church building was remodeled in American Colonial tradition as can be seen from the picture of the chancel which appeared in the local papers. At the

dedication of the church the sermon was preached by Divisional Secretary Karl S. Henry of the ULCA Board of American Missions. Rev. Mr. Henry was the Superintendent of Missions for the Ministerium of Pennsylvania at the time that Missionary Ralston took charge of Calvary Mission.

Virginia. Before the new mission at Petersburg
organized in 1949, the Synodical Mission Committee purch
a location for the proposed congregation for which it
$5300. The congregation organized under the pastorate of
Earl T. Knauss made such progress that when the Sync
authorities offered to donate $1000 of the purchase pri
the mission raised the balance by December 31, 1950
challenge was met by this congregation not yet one yea

—— † ——

California. Experienced missionaries are usually ke
occupied with their opportunities that they do not al
take the time to send in reports which could be used in
pages for the encouragement of the church. Others ar
duly modest so that the good work they are doing mu
learned from others. In the President's monthly letter t
pastors of the Synod it was stated recently that Dr. Ho
A. Anspach had succeeded so well in the mission at A
that it was found necessary to select a name before the
gregation was formally organized. It was found that
were times when the term "the Lutheran Mission" wa
tirely inadequate. Dr. Anspach writes that the name c
was "Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Azusa."
formal organization of the group will take place at an
date.

Other mission developments mentioned in the Nove
letter of President Beasom are quoted directly from his
ment. "Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norco,
fornia came into being just a short time ago under the le
ship of the Rev. F. W. Heinecken, pastor of Trinity Lut
Church of Riverside. . . . Work is being done both at Red
City and in the Kaiser Area of San Jose. Synod antic
full time workers in these fields in the near future.
work is under way in other sections. We anticipate the or
zation of the congregation at Harbor Gate in the near fu
This work is being carried on very ably under the dire
of the Rev. Miles Bonker, pastor of Grace Church, Richr
The Beverly Hills Lutheran Church is rapidly being re
and will be re-dedicated. Pastor Spirer is not only bu
the structure at Beverly Hills but has begun work on a
wing for Christ Church of San Diego. Ground has been b
for St. James' of Richmond, the Rev. Carl Moyer, pastor
Epiphany of San Leandro is worshipping in its new bu
which is rapidly being completed and will be dedicated
Rev. Franklin Swanson is the pastor of this congregatio

President Beasom always devotes a part of his mo
letters to a discussion of the reasons for establishing a

al Seminary on the Coast. The chief reason being that more men would enter the ministry from that area if Seminary were located on the coast. The question of one nary or several has never been decided by the ULCA nor hat matter by any of the larger Protestant bodies. The uri Lutherans have one Seminary at St. Louis and this t largest in America. The other Lutheran bodies, even mergers have taken place, still have many Seminaries. h t the ULCA was formed the Synods brought with one or more Seminaries and only three of this large ber were closed or merged.

Therefore, the starting of a Seminary on the West Coast d still leave the ULCA with two less institutions than it d at the time of the merger in 1918. The question is not arily whether there should be one or many Seminaries e ULCA, but it is how to secure more candidates for the stry. The West Coast must have more pastors and if a nary on the coast will provide them it will be worth all it costs.

—— † ——

New Jersey. Through the efforts of the Brotherhood and generous gift from one of its members, Reformation Mis- in Long Branch was able to secure an excellent two man- and pedal organ from a congregation in Pennsylvania. has added much to the church services.

—— † ——

Illinois. A new pulpit was made and presented to the ch by one of the members of Grace Church, Villa Park. e entering the new building, memorial gifts include a altar cross, candlesticks and altar vases. Other gifts of ior furnishings were received. Pastor Kaufman reports ere in attendance at last summer's vacation school.

—— † ——

Wisconsin. Another mission that is building a parsonage out paying a contractor is Bethlehem at Durham, served ev. George P. Crist. It is felt that the possession of a sub- ial home for a pastor will put an end to the vacancies have so hampered the progress of the congregation. With advantage the congregation feels that it will be able to op so that it can again become self-sustaining.

—— † ——

Ontario. Unusual items are often discovered in the sionaries' quarterly reports. As an example, from Geral where Pastor Rock is building a mission comes the story gold rush. Everyone is excited over the discovery of gol Neepawa Island, Minitaki Lake. This missionary expec visit the gold field as early as possible, not to seek gold something more precious, the souls of those who have ru into this area.

Another unique situation was reported by Pastor which relates to the organist at the mission in Geral She was baptized in the Joint Synod of Ohio, confirme the Augustana Synod, is now a member of the Missouri S but at present is the organist of the ULCA Mission.

— † —

North Carolina. One of the surprises arising out of present world chaos is the way in which the displaced pe who fled from the Soviet pagans, find their way to the ch when at last they are able to reach America. The stor the same whether these people are settled in the far wes Canada or in the oldest parts of the east and the south.

From St. John's at Ashboro, Rev. Walter N. Yount ports that they are holding services in Latvian once a m for the DP's of their parish and all who are within reac the Eastern section of the State. This congregation has i membership: 49 Latvians, 3 Estonians and two Lithuani All are gainfully employed and are adjusting themselve life in a new world.

— † —

Washington. When Pastor James D. Reid left Bre ton last summer for his vacation, things were not as encou ing as missionaries would like to see them. Unemploy was beginning to be a problem and three families of the sion moved out of the city just as the pastor left on his v tion.

On his return Missionary Reid writes that he found entirely different community. In the place of depression discouragement he found a town that was booming with families moving into every section. Bremerton's industries chiefly engaged in making items relating to the shipping dustry and also for war. The Korean situation had defini changed conditions in the city in a few brief weeks.

— † —

Going To Church. Many books of sermons are published
year so that it would seem useless to take up any space
s paper with sermons of a general character. However,
ful study of these books of sermons will reveal that they
been so polished and refined that they have become lit-
efforts rather than the type of a sermon usually heard
church services. An old church in Philadelphia has
on new life under its present energetic and able pas-
Thousands throng the church week after week through-
ne year and frequently the people ask that some sermon
seemed to be unusually helpful be published in the Par-
aper that others may be benefitted. Over a year ago a
of "The Friendly Courier" was sent us containing a ser-
by Dr. Stover but for which we were not able to find
until this issue.

How Far Is It To Church?

A Sermon by Dr. Ross H. Stover

Meeting a member who had been absent from the church services, I said, "Good morning, I have greatly missed you of late." He answered, "We have moved, and I have found that it is just too far for me to attend regularly." I inquired where he was employed, and when he answered, I called his attention to the fact that it was farther to his place of business than to the church. He merely replied, "Well, that's different."

Now just how is it different? Six days each week, he goes a long distance to his work and then on Sunday it is too far to go a lesser distance to church. It is different in this, that lack of interest, and failure to realize its importance, make the journey to church farther than to his work.

"How far is it to church?" I asked a member who comes fifteen miles to worship—four thirty-mile round-trips each week. "Oh," he answered, "it isn't very far for us. We love to come."

You see, after all, the distance to church is not measured in miles, but rather in appreciation and interest and loyalty.

It wasn't far to church for the parents of Jesus, who traveled from Bethlehem and Nazareth to Jerusalem. It wasn't far for the early Christians who gathered from all parts of Rome into the dark catacombs to worship and fellowship together.

The spirit of the thing measures the distance. Hear the pilgrims from afar, and the Apostles in the Upper Room, and the early Christians in the underground caves, adding their voices to millions of other Christians of vanished generations and to ours, in the song, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

I often say, "There is no such thing as distance in this large city of Philadelphia, and certainly experience proves that there is no such thing as distance to the man of God who desires to worship.

The House of God

Why do we call this building "The House of the Lord"? She is constructed of stone and wood and mortar just as any other building. But, somehow or other, the very stones speak a holy welcome, and the very walls produce a sacred touch. Temples, plain or ornate, are temples because they have been dedicated to the worship of God. As spiritual truths are shaped in formal words, so a church building produces an atmosphere wherein we can better worship and fellowship and understand life. Christ Jesus used the normal things, bread and wine, to impart to us the heavenly gifts of the Holy Sacrament.

Of course, we all realize that the only fit temple for God is man's soul. The Bible describes the Christian as "The Temple of The Holy Spirit." The real structure of the church is the lives of members. She is the combined brotherhood of believers.

As Far As My Appreciation

It is very far for the person who isn't glad to come. Any distance is too far for the man who comes in body and leaves his soul at home. It is likely, at any time, to become too far for him who comes only in a formal way. Without appreciation, it is for the pleasure-seeker farther than a couple of hours of sleep on a Sunday morning; and, beyond reason if it is raining; and beyond endurance if it is hot; and beyond good sense if any kind of a good time is in store.

Worshiping God! There my soul breathes in the heavenly atmosphere. There I fellowship with Him, and feel the power of divine things. There my faith is renewed and my spiritual emotions are quickened, and reverence for eternal things is cultivated within me. There the spirit of worship is nourished so that I can worship in my home and wherever I may go.

Ah! Let me enter into the House of the Lord, for there I can hear God's voice in Word, and Sacraments, and prayer, and message, and song. There, my penitential eye is drawn to the Lamb of God. There, my soul bursts in new expression; and, there, the embers of my being are fanned into flame.

It is *not far for the man* who values joining

his voice with a thousand more in praise and song, or who fellowships with others in the prayer, "Our Father, Who art in heaven."

Yes, in the church there grows a new feeling of unity and brotherhood. The very best is drawn out of one, and talents are multiplied.

"I thought I wouldn't come this morning, but I came; and oh, I am so glad!" For that lady, it was like shaking off much of the hot dust of life's road and inhaling the serenity of God.

There is something infectious about worshiping in God's House. Not only are individual burdens forgotten, but a new courage is generated as we are together brought in tune with The Eternal.

The world takes the best from us. When we enter into God's temple to worship, He puts the best into us. We seem to learn the meaning of His words, "We are all one bread."

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "I am a regular church goer. I find pleasure in the midst of devout worshippers. In the corner of my heart there is a little plant called reverence which wants to be watered weekly."

As Far As My Needs Cry Out

Man is a worshiping creature. God made him that way. The unique difference between animal and man is that man worships. When men do not know the true God, they will make their own gods. Man's needs cry out to God.

The world makes you wistful, weary, and colorless. I must find a burden bearer. I must seek new life. The Psalmist looks to the past, and experience says, "Life needs purifying. Man cannot stand before God's bar of justice. He is a sinner and falls far short. He needs a Saviour."

Then God answers in laying His own Son, Jesus, upon the altar, a sacrifice for the world in sin. He is our atonement. He meets all the demands of justice.

I come to Church because Jesus Christ meets my needs, and with hundreds of fellow-worshipers I sing:

I lay my sins on Jesus
The spotless Lamb of God
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursed load.

My moral nature requires open confession to God. I adore Him, confess to Him, praise Him, thank Him, bend my will to Him, and He fills my heart with heaven, wreathes my soul in smiles, mobilizes my talents, and crowns my life with hope.

This is the victory that overcometh our lives, even our doubts. This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Darkening doubts are conquered by light. The stifling dust of the world is laid low by water from the springs of God.

God in His Church shapes character, makes homes happy, produces Christian citizens, sends forth Christian leaders

As Far As My Loyalty

"I want to be a Christian like my father," said a little lad.

"How's that?" he was asked.

"Why, no one can tell whether he is a Christian or not."

There are so many deaf and dumb Christians. There are so many sick and frail Christians. There are so many Christians like clocks without hands. For them Church is always too far. They aren't glad to go because they have no appreciation of what God is nor of what He has done for them. Their needs cry out, but they soon lull them to sleep and they become numb. The world has erased from their hearts loyalty to Christ, and the weeds of thoughtlessness, negligence, and apathy have filled in. They now have become sordid, petty, groveling, small, shriveled, emaciated.

Dr. Jowett tells of an artist who carried an exquisite ring in a packet, so that frequently he could turn his eyes on beauty. Ah, my friend, come with me next Sunday into God's House. There is the Christ of the Word in a l His beauty. Look! Gaze! And your soul shall live. Stand on holy ground. Pitch your tent on expectation's corner. Think in terms of the Eternal.

How far is it to Church? Oh, my friend, my appreciation, my needs, my loyalty to Christ make any distance short. Join your voice with mine and let us exclaim, Psalm 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord."

Flora Prince
.4 N. Wittenberg Ave.
Springfield, Ohio

FAITH

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, secured and delivered me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death, in order that I might be His, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Martin Luther

Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.